

U.S. Hints Reds Hold 2 Tourists

United Press International

The State Department yesterday said it has information indicating that two American tourists missing in the Soviet Union since August are being held for taking photographs near the Soviet border.

The two are Harvey C. Bennett, 26, of Bath, Maine, and Mark Kaminsky, 28, of Jefferson Township, Mich.

State Department spokesman Francis W. Tully Jr. said an American tourist reported to the United States Government that he had seen Kaminsky Aug. 25 at the Soviet border control point in the Intourist hotel at Uzhgorod on the Czech border. The tourist said Kaminsky had "stated he was under detention for having taken a photograph."

Repeated U. S. inquiries have failed to bring any information about Kaminsky or Bennett from the Soviet official Intourist travel agency of the Russian Foreign Office.

Tully said, "It is quite clear that two Americans cannot be missing in the Soviet Union without the knowledge of the Soviet government."

The last direct word from the two men came on a postcard that Mrs. Bennett received from her husband Sept. 6. The card was dated Aug. 19 and postmarked from Vinnitsa, a Soviet town near the Czech border.

Bennett told his wife that the two had had auto trouble but were planning to leave the Soviet Union in about six days at Chop, a point where the Russian, Hungarian and Czech borders converge. Chop is 20 miles south of Uzhgorod, where Kaminsky subsequently reported he was under detention.

Another American tourist had reported to the State Department that he had talked with Bennett and Kaminsky on Aug. 18, just a week before Kaminsky was seen at the border.

CPYRGHT

The Intourist agency, in response to two inquiries from the U. S. Embassy, reported on Sept. 15 that the two missing men had been scheduled to leave the Soviet Union at Uzhgorod Aug. 29, but had not passed the check point there.

On Sept. 20 Intourist informed the Embassy that there was "no further information available at that time . . ." Tully said.

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT